

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) A method of screening for therapeutic agents useful in the treatment of a disease selected from the group consisting of cardiovascular diseases, dermatological diseases, neurological diseases, metabolic diseases, cancer disorders, urological diseases, gastroenterological diseases and reproduction disorders in a mammal comprising the steps of

i) determining a first ~~the~~ activity of a KLK8 polypeptide in the presence of at a certain concentration of a test compound ~~or in the absence of said test compound, and~~

ii) determining a second ~~the~~ activity of said polypeptide in the absence of at a different concentration of said test compound; ~~and~~

iii) determining an effect of the test compound in an *in vivo* assay.

3. (currently amended) A method of screening for therapeutic agents useful in the treatment of a disease selected from the group consisting of cardiovascular diseases, dermatological diseases, neurological diseases, metabolic diseases, cancer disorders, urological diseases, gastroenterological diseases and reproduction disorders in a mammal comprising the steps of

i) determining a first ~~the~~ activity of a KLK8 polypeptide in the presence of at a certain concentration of a test compound, ~~and~~

ii) determining a second ~~the~~ activity of a KLK8 polypeptide in ~~at~~ the presence of a ~~compound known to be a~~ regulator of a KLK8 polypeptide; ~~and~~

iii) determining an effect of the test compound in an *in vivo* assay.

4-26. (canceled)

27. (new) The method of claim 2 wherein the step of contacting is in or at the surface of a cell.

28. (new) The method of claim 2 wherein the cell is *in vitro*.

29. (new) The method of claim 2 wherein the step of contacting is in a cell-free system.

30. (new) The method of claim 2 wherein the polypeptide is coupled to a detectable label.

31. (new) The method of claim 2 wherein the compound is coupled to a detectable label.

32. (new) The method of claim 2 wherein the test compound displaces a ligand which is first bound to the polypeptide.

33. (new) The method of claim 3 wherein the step of contacting is in or at the surface of a cell.

34. (new) The method of claim 3 wherein the cell is *in vitro*.

35. (new) The method of claim 3 wherein the step of contacting is in a cell-free system.

36. (new) The method of claim 3 wherein the polypeptide is coupled to a detectable label.

37. (new) The method of claim 3 wherein the compound is coupled to a detectable label.

38. (new) The method of claim 3 wherein the test compound displaces a ligand which is first bound to the polypeptide.